



# SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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18 April 2024

To: All Members of the Environment Committee:  
Councillors: Ian Barlow, Bernie Davis, Mike Goodman, Chris Lockyear, Rachel Perram, Kevin Walker

Invited Representatives

For Information:  
Other Members of the Council  
Town Clerk

Dear Sir/Madam,

## Meeting of the Environment Committee Monday 22 April at 6.30pm

You are called upon to attend the above meeting to be held at the Council Chamber, Woolcombe House, Woolcombe Lane, Sidmouth. It is proposed that the matters set out on the agenda below will be considered at the meeting and resolution or resolutions passed as the Council considers appropriate.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and speak at this meeting. The Chair of the Committee has the right and discretion to control questions to avoid disruption, repetition and to make best use of the meeting time. Individual contributions will be limited to a maximum period of three minutes.

Yours faithfully,

**Christopher E Holland**  
Town Clerk

## A G E N D A

- |   |   | <u>Page/s</u> |
|---|---|---------------|
|   | <b><u>PART 'A'</u></b>  |               |
| 1 | <b>Apologies</b><br>To receive any apologies for absence.   |               |
| 2 | <b>Minutes</b><br>To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Working Group meeting held on Monday 12 February 2024. | 4 - 6         |

**3 Declarations of Interest**

To receive any Members' declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.

Note: You must also declare the nature of any personal or prejudicial interests in an item whenever it becomes apparent that you have an interest in the business being considered.

**4 Matters of Urgency and Report**

To consider any items that in the opinion of the Chair should be dealt with as matters of urgency because of special circumstances. (Note: such circumstances need to be recorded in the minutes)

**5 Exclusion of the Public**

To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded. There are no items which the Town Clerk recommends should be dealt with in this way.

**6 Natural Environment**

6.1 To receive reports from River Sid Partnership about their work on the River Sid catchment.

6.2 To receive an update from the Biodiversity Group on their work, including the 'Beach Garden Project' and signage.

6.3 Update from the Arboretum on progress and upcoming tree survey.

6.4 To receive the notes of a meeting of the Knowle Park and Gardens Working Group held on Friday 5th April 2024 from Councillor Kevin Walker.

Attached with the Agenda.

6.5 To receive an update on water quality and liaison with South West Water from Councillor Chris Lockyear.

6.6 Report from VGS, Cherish Sidmouth Cemeteries and Friends of Glen Goyle.

**7 Built Environment**

7.1 The Chairman to report on assisting Devon County Highways with the ongoing issue of Potholes in the Sid Valley and to discuss whether a group should be formed to report and possibly help repair potholes and sign cleaning, in conjunction with DDC.

7.2 Update from Councillor Dent and Walker about the Working Group set up to investigate costings and potential woodland burial plots.

7.3 To receive an update on the progress of Tidy up Sidmouth Day - Councillor Rachel Perram.

**8 Engagement**

8.1 Update from Dave Bramley and Councillor Chris Lockyear on the CAPS project and Community engagement, including Youth.

- |    |  |                           |
|----|--|---------------------------|
| 9  | To receive a report from Councillor Bernie Davis on the Plant based treaty and how it might be incorporated into our Environment policy. | Attached with the Agenda. |
| 10 | To confirm date of the next Environment Meeting as 8 July 24.  |                           |
| 11 | Discussion with the Committee to create a Forward Work Plan for the Committee during the next civic year.                                |                           |

**Forthcoming Council and Working Group meetings:**

- 24 April Planning Working Group
- 8 May Planning Working Group
- 13 May Annual Council

**SIDMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Sidmouth Town Council's**  
**Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber,**  
**Woolcombe House, Woolcombe Lane, Sidmouth**  
**on Monday 12 February 2024 at 6.30pm**

Councillors present: Ian Barlow (Chair)  
Stephen Blakeway  
Bernie Davis  
Kelvin Dent  
Mike Goodman  
Chris Lockyear  
John Nicholson  
Rachel Perram  
Kevin Walker  
Philip Weaver

Invited Reps: Ed Dolphin (Sidmouth Arboretum)  
Jon Ball (Sidmouth Arboretum)  
Jan Metcalf (Sid valley Biodiversity Group)  
Diana East (Sidmouth Arboretum)  
Charles Sinclair (River Sid Project)  
Roger Wolley (Sidmouth in Bloom, Sid Bashers)  
Dave Bramley (CAPS)  
Jeremey Woodward (VGS)  
Katy Frost (FOGG)

Apologies: Councillor Hillary Nelson  
Councillor Edward Willis-Flemming

The meeting started at 6.30pm and finished at 8.35pm

**PART 'A'**

**46 Minutes**

The minutes of the Environment Working Group meetings held on Monday 9 October 2023, were agreed, and signed.

**47 Declarations of Interest**

| Name   | Item Number | Type     | Action Taken  | Details                                |
|--|-------------|----------|---|--|
| Cllr and Cllr<br>Chris Lockyear                          | All items   | Personal | Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting  | Members of Sidmouth Arboretum          |
| Cllr Ian Barlow,<br>Chris Lockyear,<br>Cllr Kevin Walker | All items   | Personal | Remained in the Meeting during discussion and voting. | Members of Sidmouth Biodiversity Group |

|                    |           |          |  |                                     |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Cllr Rachel Perram | All items | Personal | Remained in the Meeting during discussion. | Member of Sidmouth Plastic Warriors |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|--|-------------------------------------|

**48 Matters of Urgency and Report**

None reported.

**49 Natural Environment:**

49.1 Chairman Ian Barlow updated the meeting about the spread of Japanese Knotweed in the Sidmouth Area. The Chairman received a reply to his email to the local MP advising the map of knotweed in the area needed updating.

49.2 Jan Metcalf from the Sid Valley Biodiversity group was invited to speak on her report regarding the Westcountry River Trust. She gave a brief overview of the River Sid Partnership project. Members acknowledged and thanked her for the concise report and ongoing hard work.

49.3 Councillor Chris Lockyear gave an update regarding his dialog with South West Water and the works they were doing and planning in the town.

49.4 Jon Ball from the Arboretum gave an update on the 10-year treeconomics report. The Committee praised their ongoing hard work.

**RESOLVED:** That option 3 of the options presented for purchasing data from the upcoming Treeconomics survey be accepted for £6000.

49.5 Ed Dolphin gave an update to the Working Group on the project to plant 14,000 trees. Members thanked him for his report and were pleased with the progress.

**50 Built Environment**

50.1 Roy Russell from Sidmouth Cycling Campaign presented his report on raising awareness and safety for cycling in the Sid Valley.

50.2 The Chairman discussed signage for the 'Beach Garden' in front of the Belmont.

**RECOMMENDED:** That the feasibility of an information board be examined by the Council and if permission was given by East Devon District Council to site such a sign, delegated authority be given to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair of Council and Chair of Environment Committee to purchase a board costing up to a maximum of £1500.

50.3 Jeremy Woodward discussed the VGS led, new Cherishing Sidmouth Cemeteries report and the relationship with STC and EDDC, including the contribution of volunteers and the issue of insurance cover. A request was given for funding for volunteer Hi-Viz jackets. Thanks was given to the ongoing commitment and work of the VGS group.

**RESOLVED:** A donation of £160 was granted by the Committee for the purchase of Hi-Viz vests.

50.4 Councillor Kelvin Dent gave a verbal report on the possibility of a woodland burial plot in the Sid Valley.

Councillor Dent and Walker agreed to set up a Working Group to investigate costings and potential sites and will report back to this committee at a later date.

50.5 Katy Frost (FOGG) gave a report on the refurbishment of Glen Goyle. It has won an outstanding award from Britain in Bloom. The Chair and Members gave thanks and appreciation to the FOGG group and everything they have achieved.

50.6 Councillor Rachel Perram gave a report on initiating a Tidy up Sidmouth Day/s. A Working Group with Councillors Perram, Weaver, Davis and Walker was created.

50.7 The Chairman reported on assisting the County Highways with the ongoing issue of Potholes in the Sid Valley.

**RECOMMENDED:** Members to report every pothole and blocked drain to EDDC. Chair of the Committee to liaise with the Town Clerk to discuss the possibility of outsourcing and insurance to fill the potholes independently. <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/report-a-pothole-form/> Blocked drains reported to [https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/map/map\\_src/sw/](https://www.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem/map/map_src/sw/)

50.8 Councillor Kelvin Dent gave a verbal report on the progress management plan of the Knowle Parkland and Gardens.

**RESOLVED:** Councillor Walker had joined the group “Friends of Knowle “as the Council representative and would assist them in liaising with the Council.

## 51 Engagement

51.1 An update on the CAPS project was given by Councillor Lockyear and Dave Bramley referring to Jeremy Woodwards report which urged more engagement with the Community, forwarding information and educating about climate awareness.

**RECOMMENDED:** Chair to arrange a meeting to discuss how best to increase our social media coverage and get a larger audience for ongoing campaigns.

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CHAIR OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

